

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-64 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-15, 17 and 19-24 are amended, and dependent claims 26-64 are added. The claims are amended for clarity and conciseness. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims do not narrow the claims.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-25. Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith. These references were cited in the International Search Report, and were previously submitted (but apparently overlooked by the Patent Office) with an Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on September 12, 2002.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Mario A. Costantino  
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination  
Information Disclosure Statement  
Amendment Transmittal

Date: July 14, 2004

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